

Meeting Title	Child Welfare Reform Collaborative Meeting
Date	Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Time and Location	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. in CR134 at Davis Square
Attendees	<p>Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR): Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, Commissioner Linda Watts, Commissioner Cindy Beane, Commissioner Christina Mullins, Laura Barno, Jeff Wiseman, Kent Nowwiskie, Amy Hymes, Janie Cole, Tony Richards, Cammie Chapman, Jean Krantz, Katie Moss, Nikki Tennis, Christie Fortney</p> <p>Stakeholders: Steve Tuck, Cindy Largent-Hill, Marissa Sanders, Katrina Harmon, Brenda Hoylman, Amy Kennedy-Rickman, Betty Rivard, Frank Andrews, Melanie Plumley, Rachel Kinder, Will Lawrence, Lauren Fredrick, Tanya Hutchinson, Angie Hamilton, Steve Fairley, Lisa McMullin, Melissa Laster, Joan Ohl, Melissa McIntire, Sharon Carte, Amelia Ferrell, Kelli Caseman</p> <p>BerryDunn: Brady Birdsong, Courtney Rombow</p>

Agenda Items

Item #	Topic and Description	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Jeremiah Samples
2.	Children's Home Society Foster Care Community Forums	Steve Tuck
3.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates	Jeremiah Samples
3.a.	Family First	Laura Barno
3.b.	Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver	Cindy Beane
3.c.	Coordinated Care Management (CCM)	Jeff Wiseman
3.d.	Child Welfare Workforce	Linda Watts
4.	Department of Justice (DOJ) Agreement Status	Jeremiah Samples
5.	Open Discussion/Other Issues	All
6.	Next Steps	All

Meeting Notes

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1.	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
2.	Children's Home Society Foster Care Community Forums

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Tuck explained the foster care community forums. He said meetings attended by a wide array of participants have been held in different areas of the state. Steve discussed the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child care subsidies ○ Placement disruptions ○ Emergency removals ○ Rushed kinship placements ○ Substance Abuse Treatment (SUD) treatment and recovery efforts ○ Support for kinship families ○ Retention of foster parents ○ Custody disputes with kinship care ○ Guardian ad litem caseloads • Steve said he expects to publish observations and recommendations of the forums in December 2019. • Angie Hamilton recommended expanding treatment foster care and explained the benefits for children with high needs who have experienced extensive trauma. • Commissioner Linda Watts discussed the Kinship Study and said the results will soon be released and reviewed in a future Collaborative meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts explained the certification process and explained kin and relatives stipend options. She said Deputy Commissioner Janie Cole is working to make the process of obtaining child care easier. ○ Deputy Commissioner Cole said her goal is to attach payments to the child rather than to the foster parent. She asked anyone experiencing issues to contact her.
3.	Child Welfare Reform Effort Updates
3.a.	<p>Family First</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Barno said the State Plan Amendment (SPA) is due in roughly two weeks. She said the prevention plan is in a draft state, but is nearly complete. • Laura said nine services are currently on the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Clearinghouse, with an additional 21 services under review. • Laura explained the FFPSA transition act is pending in Congress. • Betty Rivard asked about the status of the Safe at Home (SAH) program.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cammie Chapman said while the funding for SAH will change, DHHR has committed to sustaining and expanding SAH with a high fidelity to the national wraparound model. ○ Commissioner Linda Watts said some changes to the program will be made based on lessons learned. She said moving forward with SAH, DHHR aims to have one wraparound model, but that all children needing wraparound will be seamlessly served, regardless of the funding source. ○ Commissioner Christina Mullins said the Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH) will fund wraparound for children who are considered pre-care or at risk of re-entry. ○ Commissioner Cindy Beane said the Children with Serious Emotional Disorders Waiver (CSEDW) also includes a case management/wraparound component.
3.b.	<p>SED Waiver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commissioner Beane said her team is working through quality assurance aspects of the waiver with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). She said DHHR is on target to meet deadlines. Commissioner Beane said her team plans to begin assessing children prior to January, with services beginning on January 1, 2019. She said all children in the CSEDW will be with the specialized Managed Care Organization (MCO).
3.c.	<p>CCM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jeff said the procurement is in a blackout period. He said he expects to make an award within three weeks, but is waiting for the cost opening. Jeff said proposals are available on Oasis. Jeff said the MCO might join the next meeting. Jeff said the procurement is still targeting a January 1, 2020, implementation date. ● Betty asked about the expected implications on workforce. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff said the hiring plan for each MCO varies, but estimated the MCO hiring 100 staff. ● Jeff introduced Tony Richards as the new program manager for the specialized MCO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tony explained his background and experience as a foster parent. ○ Commissioner Watts said the Bureau for Children and Families (BCF) will also hire a liaison to work with Tony. ○ Tony introduced Katie Moss, and said she will also work with the MCO. ● Steve asked what CMS' role is after the contract award.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff and Cindy explained that DHHR has been involved in ongoing discussion with CMS and has sent draft documents for preliminary review.
3.d.	<p>Child Welfare Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kent said DHHR is making progress toward workforce reform. He said significant strides have been made to aid recruitment and retention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Linda said many issues have been addressed, including improving Family and Children Tracking System (FACTS) ease of use, safety measures, travel reimbursement, and salary. ● Betty asked how DHHR is planning to offset the workforce implications of the MCO onboarding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said some turnover is expected, but noted staff members on the career ladder are more likely to stay. ○ Commissioner Beane suggested reviewing each MCO proposal for more clarification.
4.	<p>DOJ Agreement Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cammie Chapman said the DOJ implementation plan was submitted. She said after DOJ and DHHR agree on a final version, a public comment period will be held. ● Cammie said DHHR has received bids for the subject matter expert (SME) position and is working through the scoring process. ● Cammie explained the State Wraparound and the concept of “no wrong door.” She said over the next year, the goal is to create a program based on acuity level that is available statewide. Cammie said it is important to help ensure all three bureaus incorporate the national wraparound initiatives model. ● Cammie said other components of the implementation plan include expanding the children’s mobile crisis response program, positive behavioral supports therapy, therapeutic foster care, quality improvement, and targeted education of families, as well as creating a communication plan.
7.	<p>Open Discussion/Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Betty asked about the status of the collaborative website/dashboard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kent Nowwiskie said the website is scheduled for release in the fall of 2019, and noted DHHR’s website will be utilized in the meantime. ● Steve asked about the status of the independent evaluator for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura said DHHR is expanding KEPRO's contract to conduct the assessments. ● The group discussed the use of the Comprehensive Assessment and Planning System (CAPS) after the MCO is onboarded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Watts said more progress will be made once the MCO is onboarded. She noted that a CAPS is often not necessary. Commissioner Watts said her team plans to analyze how CAPS data is being used. ○ Melanie agreed that when a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment is performed well, a CAPS is not necessary. ● Rachel Kinder explained the Kinship Navigator program. Rachel said navigators will act as resources to families by completing needs assessments, educating, verifying FACTS screens have been completed, and connecting families to community resources. She noted that navigators will only handle cases assigned to them. ● Marissa Sanders said the foster care survey being conducted with Marshall University is expected to be finalized by Monday, September 23, 2019. ● Joan Ohl said her team has been working with DHHR to prepare for FFPSA and to improve staff retention. ● Kent asked that group members email him suggested agenda items.
8.	Next Steps